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Nov. 26–
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POUNDMAKER

FREE

U of A students vote against joining NUS

In a pathetic turnout of voters, students at the University of Alberta voted against membership in the National Union of Students.

Only 680 of an eligible 18,000 student voters bothered to mark their ballots, a typical showing for this generally apathetic campus. It was a close result, with "NO" votes counting for only 52.7% of the total vote.

There was not much active campaigning for either side. The referendum was marred by a noticable lack of publicity. Most students here were not even aware of the existence of the National Union of Students. Even fewer students were aware of the issues involved in the referendum.

It is ironic that the U of A, one of the largest supporters of the National Union in its infant stages, should now back down from membership. The Students' Union Executive had been so enthusiastic about NUS that they agreed to host the NUS conference that was held in October.

That conference was a discouraging affair, according to Pat Delaney, Students' Union Academic Vice-President. Delaney and President George Mantor were very disturbed that NUS was becoming involved in grape and Kraft boycotts which they feel are not student affairs.

Consequently, the Executive underwent a complete reversal in sentiments after the October conference. Delaney mounted a campaign to discourage students from voting in favour of NUS membership. Three days prior to the referendum, an editorial appeared in the Gateway, that was written by Delaney, and which outlined his opposition to NUS.

A small campaign was quickly organized by a group of concerned students who favoured NUS membership, and feared that the opinions of the Students' Union Executive would have a large influence on voters.

Another issue that disillusioned Delaney and Mantor was the resolution that each member of NUS should have one vote in the decision-making process of the organization. Delaney believes that the larger institutions that pay greater fees, should have a greater power than the smaller institutions.

Whether or not that influence was felt will never be known. However the entire affair indicates that not much interest in a National Union has been generated among the students at the University of Alberta.

by Jim Oakley

In this issue POUNDMAKER takes a look at how Native people are treated in Siberia and Greenland in comparison with their counterparts in Canada. The Russian north has spawned many thriving communities that serve the needs of the native people. Shown here are some reindeers in the Chukotka tundra who considered helicopters part of the scenery.
photo: The Soviet North by B V. Slavin.

Legion workers continue to fight

The months roll by and the Strathcona Legion Strike continues with no end in sight.

Every day the little band of workers keep their lonely vigil in front of the Legion Hall at 10416-81 Ave. Although their numbers have dwindled from the original twenty to a faithful five, they are determined to last out the winter.

"There's no hope for a settlement in the near future," said Joyce Sennett, one of the original employees who has been picketing up to 8 hours a day, "but we have to keep on because our union's contracts with other city legions are coming up for renewal next August. If the Strathcona Legion succeeds in driving out the union, the other legions will be tempted to follow suit."

"Workers in legion halls especially need a strong union," she went on to say, "otherwise they have no security, are forced to do jobs they weren't hired to do, and may have their hours of work cut arbitrarily."

Labour conditions at the Strathcona Legion are such that there has been a large turnover among the scabs working there, despite the fact that they are being paid the wage which the union is asking for its members. Service has degenerated to the point where the patrons have to pour their own drinks.

Because the Strathcona Legion is a "private club", the union is concentrating its efforts on persuading the patrons not to renew their memberships which come due at the beginning of next year.

The union had some hopes of breaking the deadlock recently when elections for Legion officers were held. But the same old slate was re-elected, largely because the only active members of the Legion are now the reactionary core.

The strikers have complained about certain union members crossing their picket line, and recently letters of protest were sent out to the offices of the unions to which they belong.

On November 11 the picket line was withdrawn for the first time since the strike began last March, in observance of Remembrance Day.

Picketing hours for the winter months are 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 5 - 8:30 p.m. The number of pickets at one time is limited to four, according to an injunction obtained by the Legion management. But volunteers are always welcome on the picket line -- it gives the regulars a chance to take a break. So if you have the time feel free to help.

University SU executive trying to get HUB's taxes eliminated

The Students' Union Executive at the University of Alberta is trying to save money on HUB, the Students' Union housing spaceship, by a possible elimination of HUB's municipal tax.

The City of Edmonton is presently taxing HUB at a rate of $46,000 per year. This is equal to the rate which is commonly assigned to commercial properties, such as high-rise developments, or commercial properties on Jasper Ave.

Pat Delaney, Academic Vice-President of the Students' Union, is hopeful that this tax can be rescinded. Delany and Gary Croxton (Executive VP) were assigned by the Students' Council Executive to investigate this possibility.

They hope to meet with Mayor Ivor Dent soon after December 15.

According to Delaney many institutions are given special consideration when it comes to the assessment of municipal taxes. These include low-income housing, churches, charity organizations, and homes for people who live on a fixed income, such as homes for the aged or disabled. He is hopeful that special consideration will be given to HUB on the basis that students are among those who must survive on a fixed income.

Delaney adds that consideration should also be given on the basis that HUB is a non-profit venture, designed solely for the benefit of a low-income group, namely students.

The U of A Students' Union is the only student organization in Canada that provides this type of large-scale student housing service. This is one of the findings reported by Delaney who is presently involved in the research required before a representation is made to the City. He has generally observed that student residences across the country are non-profit ventures. In fact, they generally lose money.

The Lister Hall Complex also pays municipal property taxes. All university property is taxed, and Delaney estimates that the cities of Edmonton and Calgary reap a combined university property tax of between three and four million dollars.

This situation does not exist in other provinces, according to Delaney. University properties are exempt from municipal and provincial taxes in several provinces, including British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Ontario.

The legislation in Alberta is flexible on this point. Cities have the power to tax the university and university residences if they so desire.

Can this legislation be changed? Students' Union representatives have met with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, David Russell, and achieved no success in their attempt to alter the legislation. Russell refused to accept the argument that HUB be given special consideration as a low-income project, and refused to change the legislation, says Delaney. The argument presented by Russell was that if taxes were rescinded on one area of the university, then pressure would be placed on the city to rescind taxes on university property. In that event, the city would be forced to beg for some alternate source of funds from the province.

A discussion with Advanced Minister of Education Foster proved equally discouraging for Council representatives.

Having met a blank wall at the provincial level, Delaney and Croxton are now preparing to approach Mayor Dent and plead their case at the municipal level.

Poundmaker's Guide to Where It's At

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Resources Conference . . . pg. 5
Women and the Law . . . . pg. 12

cheap thrillz (and coming events)

Monday, November 26

Student wives
The graduate student wives club will meet at 8 p. m. in the Meditation Room in SUB -- Honourable Helen Hunley will speak on Women and Politics.

Tuesday, November 27

POUNDMAKER

POUNDMAKER is published weekly on Mondays by the Harvey G. Thomgirt Publishing Society, an incorporated non-profit society, from offices located at 11129 - 80th Avenue, Edmonton; phone 433-5041. Single copies are free at all outlets. Subscriptions cost $7.00 for one year and $12.00 for two years. Any and all volunteers are welcome. Press releases, letters, money, food, beer, editorial submissions, etc. must be received by the Friday before publication. POUNDMAKER is printed by Central Web Offset Limited.

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STAFF THIS ISSUE:

Were:
Dave Nock-Poot, Dave Poot, Eric Smoot, Collette Poot, Anne Poot, Ross Poot, Malcolm Poot, Eugene Poot, Rick Poot, Rodger Poot, Katrina Lougheed-Poot, Pierre Elliot Poot, Mao tse Poot, all alias Douglas Fairbank Bannana, a friend of me Joe Bommo, and Harvey P. (for you guessed it.... POOT) Thomgrit. poot poot

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( ) $12 for a two year subscription.

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Opera
Various students in the Voice/Opera Division of the Music Dept. will present an evening of semi-staged opera exerpts at 8 p. m. in Convocation Hall. No charge.

Ballads
The Edmonton Folk Club will present a workshop on ballads, traditional and comtemporary. Starts 8 p. m. at Garneau United Church, 84 Ave. and 112 St.

Talk
The department of Educational Foundations presents a public lecture with Professor Donald F. Swift of the Open University, a noted European socialogist of Education. The topic is "the Open University - Concept and Reality. An Assessment of England's Innovative Approach to Mass Education." The lecture will be in Rm. 129 Education Bldg.

Wednesday, November 28

Women
Ms. June Menzies, Vice-chairperson of the Federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women, will speak in Edmonton on "Equality, Dignity, Opportunity." The presentation sponsored by the Edmonton Council of Options for Women, will be held at 7:30 p. m. in the downstairs theatre of the Centennial Library. Discussion will follow Ms. Menzies' talk.

Thursday, November 29

Spiney Norman's Whoopee Band, The Peoples' Friend - The tyrant's Foe, presents an audio-visual extravaganza at 8:37 p. m. in the SUB Theatre, U of A campus. Admission: $1.63 Come in and with something bizarre!

Friday, November 30

Recital
Robert Dvorkin, pianist, will give a recital at 8 p. m. in Convocation Hall, Arts Bldg., U of A. Programme to include world by Mozart, Beethoven, Ravel, Debassy.

Recital
Betty Kolodziej, third year Bachelor of Music student, will present a one-hour recital at 5 p. m. in Convocation Hall. She will be assisted by JoEllen Harris, clarinet, and Theresa Cotton, piano. No charge.

Saturday, December 1

QUE: As promised, Dr. Pat Browne will hold another seminar in Rm. 129, Ed. Bldg., U of A campus, from 10 a. m. to 1 p. m. Format: informal discusion period. Topic your choice. Any questions you have regarding study techniques, essays, etc. please place these beforehand in the question box found in Newman Centre, basement of St Joseph's, west entrance. For further info, call Bina Olekshy at 436-1631.

Sunday, December 2

Concert
A concert with Richard White at 8 p.m. at Garneau United Church, 84 Ave and 112 St. Adm. $1.00, .50 for Folk Club members. Back-up act is Yow-Zah; a five man country music, string and jug band and blues group.

Band
The University of Alberta Concert Band will perform at 3 p. m. in the Theatre at the Students' Union Bldg. Music by Bach, Strauss and Gershwin will be featured. General admission is $1.00. Call 432-4260 for further information.

Ongoing Events

Transcendental Meditation
Introductory lectures on transcendental meditation are held every Tuesday at 8:00 p. m. in the Grad Students' Lounge on the 14th floor of the Henry Marshall Tory Bldg. on the U of A campus.

French anyone
You may learn French at your convenience. Also English instruction for newcomers. 808-9925 Jasper Ave., MacDonald Place, 426-0813.

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HOUSING
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ROOM AVAILABLE in co-op house, close to university, 11019-87 Avenue, 433-4795.

WANTED: Room mate needed to share apartment at Newton Place. Phone Jeff at 433-3548 after 4 p. m.

Girl needed to share two bedroom apartment with same. Rent $85. University area. Phone 433-3073.

Inexpensive housing. For information on the housing co-op movement in Edmonton phone 482-1898. Vacancies available.

FOR RENT: Quiet clean furnished room at 10803-83rd Avenue. Available December 15, phone 439-2301.

FOR RENT: one bedroom basement suite for rent. Three blocks from U of A campus. Phone 434-7080 or 466-4856.

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Will babysit my home weekdays. Qualified early childhood education. Babies and toddlers welcome. Ph. 452-9865.

Professional dressmaking. Specializing Christmas formals. Young mods, old swingers. Ph. 452-9865.

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- varied allied experience desirable
- salary negotiable
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  Preventive Social Services
  Box 90
  Athabasca, Alberta
  TOG OBO
- Closing date: December 5th, 1973

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****

Small cassette tape recorder
2 motor cycle helmets small & medium
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Size 9 1/2 men's skates
Sell fast and cheap
433-9773
439-7959

For sale: witchcraft items including books on the occult. Phone Ron 474-3065 after 5 p. m.

King 5 Chesterfield and matching chair. Rusty brown color. Very good shape. Phone 488-4761 after 5:30 p. m.

Sofa and chair, good condition, $60. Square coffee table $10. Straight-backed desk chair $4. 433-1170.

Wanted: 1 pair of chrome-slotted mags or chrome reverse wheels to fit Ford. Phone 439-4114.

For sale: 1 pair of Head 320 skis, 210 cm., Nevada bindings $80. ph. 469-3181.

1 woman's winter knee-length sheepskin coat. Fully lined. Size 10 or 11. Will take offers. Ph. 488-6328 after 6 p. m.

Fender Telecaster with Humbucking Pick-Up and Bland neck. Excellent condition. $325.00. Call Judy at 482-6238.

'70 Volks delivery van. 5 miles (new motor --factory rebuilt), warranty. $3000. Ph. 433-0479 evenings.

Study desk and drafting table. $55; $35. Ph. 439-1298.

Kenmore sunlamp with tripod stand. New condition. Ph. 469-8328.

Set of Encylopedia Britanica 3 months old. New $645, asking $535 or near offer. Ph. 423-2915.

Splendid philedendron, monster variety, 3 feet high, 6 feet across. Excellent condition, but too big form our small living room. Ph. 439-6907

Gibson ES 125 T Electric guitar. Excellent condition. Hard case. $300 or offers. Ph. 424-8910

Fender Bassman amp. $275. Good condition. Phone Gordon Harvey 488-6056.

****
MISCELLANEOUS
****

Professional typing. Quality guaranteed. No penalty for carbon copies. 30 cents per page. Phone John at 439-6671.

Now booking hayrides. Bonfires available. Phone 434-3835.

Person with knowledge and appreciation of Islamic theology please phone Tony at 433-4985 or 432-5889.

Sleigh rides for large and small groups between city and Sherwood Park. Info 466-3458 after 4 p. m.

CANSAVE XMAS CARDS available at English Dept. Office, Humanities Building 3 - 7 U. of A. Packages of ten from 50 cents to $2.25. All proceeds to Canadian Save the Chidren Fund.

Students' Help
Problems? Need someone to talk to? Call Students' Help at 432-4387 or drop in to Room 250, SUB. For the student--by the student. Hours: 1 p. m. to 12:00 midnight, Mon - Thurs.; 1 p. m. to 2:00 a. m. Fri.; 7 p. m. to 2:00 a. m. Sat.; and, 7 p. m. to 12:00 midnight Sun.

Free--young St. Bernard to good home. Phone 455-1039.

Lost
A Practika 35 mm. camera and light meter. If found please phone Evi at 425-9860.

Professional typing, 25 cents per page. Call Susan at 455-8492.

Due to lack of space this week (notice 12 pages instead of 16), we were unable to run all the classified ads we received. Next week things will be back to normal so please keep using this service.

Pension reforms needed for recipients

by Charlotte MacDonald

It costs:
- seventy-five dollars per month to buy groceries for two people (about one dollar per person per day)
- one hundred and five dollars to pay for all other expenses (cloths, housing, entertainment)
- a total monthly income of $176. 00 for two people

This was the financial situation of an Edmonton pensioner who recently got in touch with Pensioners Concerned. His case is not atypical.

Mrs. Charest, chairwoman of Pensioners Concerned, says that the purpose of the group is "to study the problems and needs of pensioners and to make recommendations to the government."

The group was formed as the result of a 1968 study which revealed to pensioners that they could unite to solve their common difficulties.

"One of the worst problems," said Charest, "is that of the non-pensionable unemployed spouse." Pensioners Concerned recommends that the pension age (for Old Age Security) be lowered to sixty for the unemployed spouse of a pensioner, so that one pension will not have to support two people. Most often the unemployed spouse is the woman, who has worked as a housewife.

Pensioners Concerned also feels that provision should be made for housewives and women employed as housekeepers to make optional payments into the Canada Pension Plan. At present, there is no such provision.

Charest expressed concern over the provisions of the Canada Pension Plan in the case of the death of the contributing spouse. In many cases, the husband is the sole contributor. If he should die his wife cannot collect his pension unless she has passed the age of fourty-two, despite the fact that she may be unable to obtain employment. If she is disabled or has children, however, she may collect sixty percent of his pension.

"But," says Charest, "she should qualify for one hundred percent. That is part of the family income and belongs to both husband and wife."

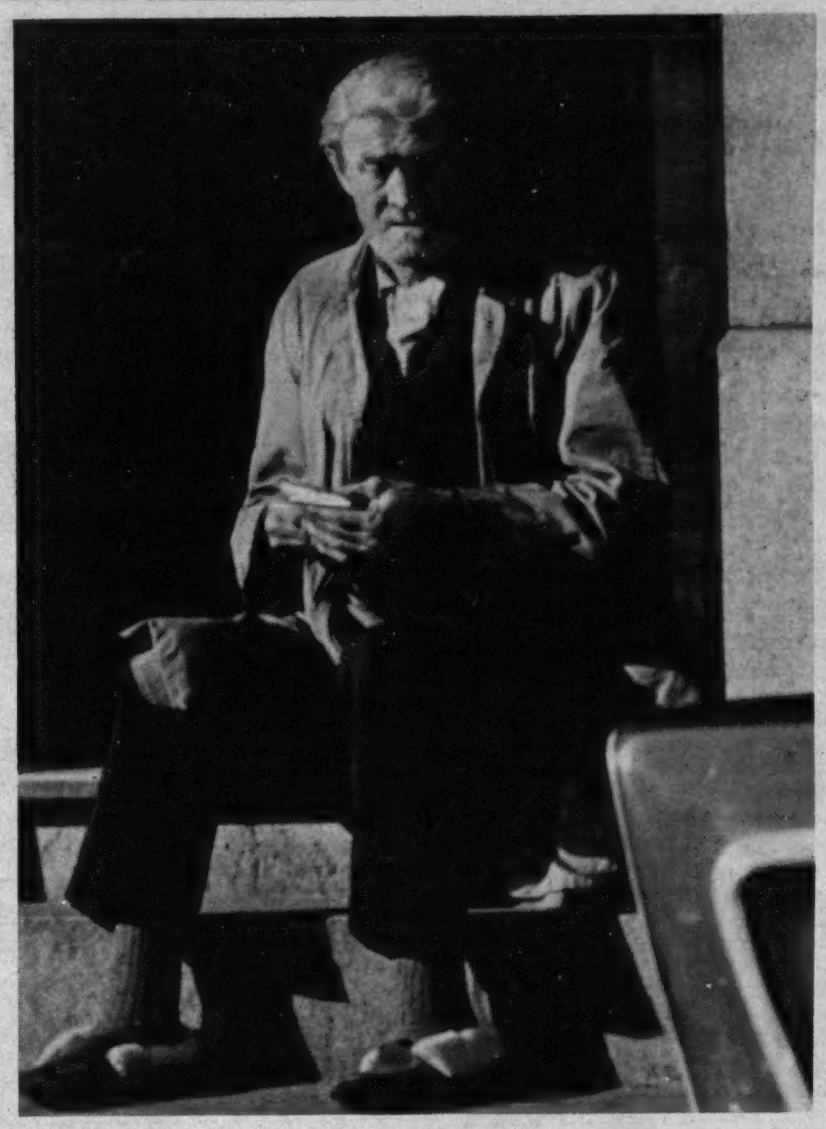
If the wife is contributing to the Canada Pension Plan and she dies, her husband cannot collect her pension at all unless he was wholly or substantially maintained by her.

"However," Charest pointed out, "he may need the extra income in order to provide adequate care for his children while he is working."

Recently the Alberta Government voted to add ten dollars from provincial funds to the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). GIS is paid to recipients of Old Age Security who can demonstrate eligibility. It amounts to roughly seventy dollars per month and is reduced by one dollar for every two dollars of other income (i. e. Canada Pension, compensation, interest on bank deposits, wages from part-time work, etc.)

The state of pensioners' finances in Alberta is demonstrated by the fact that 48% of Alberta pensioners qualify for full GIS while about 25% qualify for partial GIS.

"Unfortuneately I have no hope of really major increases in the pensioners incomes in the very near future," said Charest. "I am very concerned about the internationally increasing gap between the rich and the poor ..... The wealth of the world is increasingly going into the hands of a limited few."



Charest said that, in her opinion, the government must also give aid to low-income workers. She felt that the government could obtain the funds necessary to improve the situation of the pensioners by rearranging its tax priorities to put more emphasis on taxation of large corporations.

"However," she said, "they are naturally afraid that the corporations would take reprisals .... Money rules all over the world."

***

Pensioners Concerned is a non-denominational and non-partisan organization. Its next meeting will be Dec. 16 in the Lions' Recreation Centre. Neil Crawford, Alberta Minister of Social Development, will be present to speak and to hear recommendations.

Interested pensioners should contact: Pensioners Concerned, c/o Mrs. Charest, 8514-81 Ave., Edmonton.

Ginter sets up own distribution system to get beer into retail outlets

Events continued at a fever tempo last week in the labour dispute at Uncle Ben's brewery in Red Deer.

Uncle Ben's beer appeared for the first time in Alberta Liquor Commission stores, thanks to a private distribution system set up by the beleaguered brewery. The distribution system was necessary in order to circumvent the Alberta Brewers' Agents, whose employees have refused to handle Uncle Ben's products.

But owner Ben Ginter's problems are far from over--they have merely escalated to a new level. His latest moves have incurred the wrath of the Civil Service Association (CSA), an independent union whose members include provincial liquor store employees. The CSA has threatened to join the boycott against Uncle Ben's "because of the unfair labour practices of that concern."

The CSA will be holding meetings early this week to determine what action it will take. Told of the CSA situation, Ginter commented "nothing surprises me any more about Alberta."

Ginter has already threatened legal action against the Alberta Federation of Labour and the Calgary Labour Council "just as fast as our lawyer can get the papers drawn up."

Besides the opposition of organized labour, Ginter has also experienced difficulty in finding truckers to transport his beer. The brewery reportedly contacted about 100 companies in setting up its own distribution and collection system. And officials of the brewery charged last Wednesday that two of the trucking companies which contracted to truck the beer had cancelled out illegally. The two firms were identified as Reinhart Transport and Lyal Custom Carriers, both of Calgary. Ginter alleges that pressure from the Alberta Brewers' Agents was responsible for the cancellations.

Meanwhile on the legal front, the International Brewery Workers (IBW) have temporarily dropped their application to the Board of Industrial Relations to declare an illegal boycott against the brewery.

"This motion will be filed again," union lawyer Barry Chivers told the POUNDMAKER, "depending on a court decision next January concerning the union's application for certification at the brewery." The lockout motion was withdrawn because Ginter refused to agree to an adjournment.

The Board has still to rule on an unfair practices charge filed by the union against Ginter. Acting in its usual ponderous fashion, the Board seems to hope the dispute will go away. Instead it continues to spread.

Because his brewery has a "sweetheart" contract with the Teamsters Union, Ginter claims his plant is "the only unionized brewery operating in Alberta."

Ginter (and the Teamsters) consider the IBW defunct because the U. S. section of that union recently merged with the Teamsters. According to Ginter the IBW is no longer a "legally constituted union" and "the other (Alberta) breweries don't have a union any more." Needless to say, local IBW members do not have a high opinion of Ginter's views on their organization's "legality".

The 9000 IBW members in Canada who refused to join the Teamsters hope to set up a new organization early next year. Only in Quebec has there been a significant movement of IBW members into the Teamsters.

City Hall involved in contract disputes

Unitl last week the City of Edmonton was involved in contract disputes with three unions: Local 1007 of the International Brotherhood of Electical Workers (representing Edmonton Power workers); the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 52 (representing inside workers, clerks and maintainence men working for the city); and Amalgamated Transit Workers.

Strike action by IBEW Local 1007 was narrowly averted by a settlement late Wednesday night. This strike could shut down City Hall because the other unions involved signified refusal to cross any picket lines. (As POUNDMAKER went to press, it was unknown whether Edmonton Transit workers would walk off the job Monday or if the contract would be settled late Sunday night.)

Meanwhile, after six weeks of meeting, the Labour Conciliation Board has not yet ruled on the contract dispute between the City and CUPE Local 52. The dispute was forced to the Board by the City, which refused to meet with the union for direct table-talk negotiations.

The dispute still centers around the practice by the City of reclassifying jobs and thereby taking workers out of the union's jurisdiction. City Hall thus escapes paying equitable industry wages and benifits to these workers.

Local 52 is expected to reject the Board's ruling when it appears (probably sometime this week) and call for a strike vote. But strike action may not be necessary if the city-involved unions remain solidly behind each other, forcing the City to a settlement.

The long drawn-out Conciliation Board mediations is causing some dissatisfaction because of boredom and the approaching Christman season, when extra money is needed. Most workers are still refusing overtime and slowing down work, but some have been accepting extra work.

One CUPE member noted the City management has been spreading rumours that the unions have been slowing up proceeding, but it can only be the City itself doing so by tabling more and more paper work at the Board meetings.

In order for CUPE Local 52 to win a fair settlement, it will have to use the strike threat against the City and have the strong support of the other unions, in the event that a strike occurs. It will also need public support and understanding.

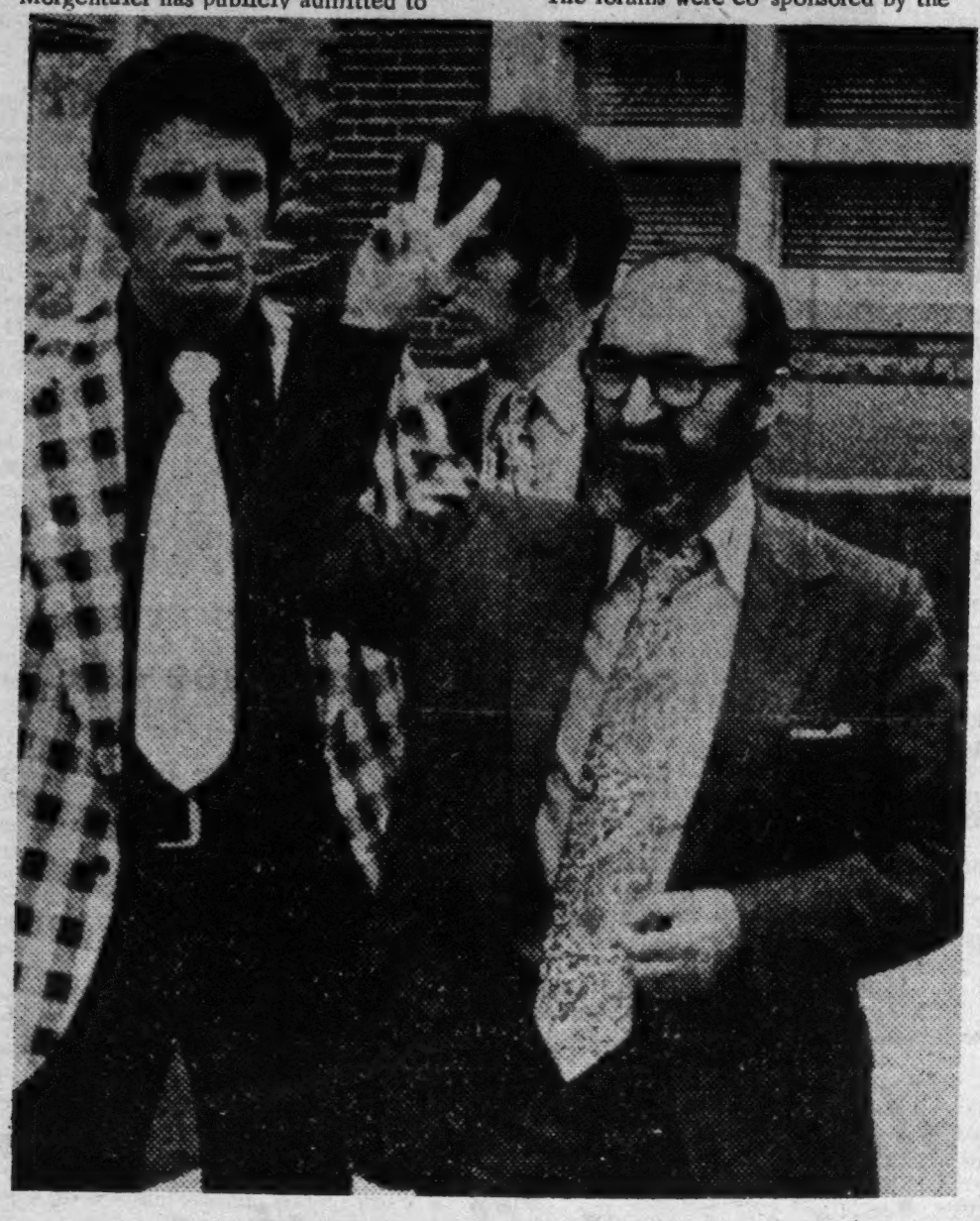
Morgentaler . . . 'A victory for women'

"It' s not an easy case. It' s not like a rape where you can always find women to testify. We interviewed many of those five thousand women and they sent us packing. "

This was the comment of Crown attorney Robichaud on the difficulty of finding evidence to convict Dr. Henry Morgentaler -- despite the fact that Morgentaler has publicly admitted to performing more than five thousand "illegal" abortions.

Robichaud' s comment was passed on to about thirty-five or forty interested women and men by Cushman, Toronto co-ordinator of the Committee to Defend Dr. Morgentaler, at two forums held Thursday and Friday at the University of Alberta.

The forums were co-sponsored by the Committee to Defend Dr. Morgentaler and the U of A Students' Council.



Dr. Morgentaler after his arrest last August 15

Cushman said, "Finally, the August 15th raid on Morgentaler' s clinic got the Crown its witness -- a frightened, unmarried, black foreign student, in Canada on a student visa and afraid of deportation. "

However, despite the woman' s testimony that Morgentaler had performed her abortion, the jury found him "not guilty". Cushman described the nature of the jury and of Morgentaler' s plea.

The jury, Cushman said, was composed of eleven men and one woman. The Crown rejected all women jurors of child-bearing age. The Defence demanded a trial in French with a francophone jury. Cushman said that the Defence was relatively satisfied with the final composition of the jury because francophone trade unionists were in the majority. She said that juries of Quebecois trade unionists had demonstrated in the past that they take political decisions rather than "law and order" decisions.

The Defense called only French-speaking witnesses; the Crown gave testimony in English.

Morgentaler' s defense rested on Article 45 of the Criminal Code. Cushman said that this article was intended to protect people who had to perform surgical operations in emergency conditions (at the scene of an accident, etc.) It states that nobody is liable for performing such an operation if it is done with reasonable skill under reasonable conditions.

"The judge instructed the jury that they had to weigh whether this article applied to abortion. If so, it could override the abortion law section of the Criminal Code, " said Cushman.

The jury found that Article 45 does apply. This means that if a woman WANTS an abortion, she NEEDS an abortion--she should have an abortion. This also means the jury sees abortion as just another medical procedure. Finally, this means that we have an unworkable situation, a conflict in the Criminal Code, which must be resolved one way or the other. "

Cushman pointed out that there is already some indication as to how the State would like to solve the contradiction in the Criminal Code. The Crown has moved to take Morgentaler' s case to appeals court as "a miscarriage of justice".

Meanwhile, Cushman reported, Dr. MacHabée has been taken to court with very little publicity or news coverage. Since Morgentaler' s case does not establish a legal precedent, Cushman said that the Crown "has another chance" with Dr. MacHabée.

His preliminary hearing re-convenes Dec. 4th and women in Montreal, Toronto, and Winnipeg are planning pickets and demonstrations on that day.

Cushman talked about the importance of Alberta women fighting Bill 220 which would take legal abortions out from under Alberta Health Care.

"If Alberta gets away with it, the other provinces will not hesitate. . . . . Health Minister Potter in Ontario has already threatened to do the same, " she said.

The response to the Morgentaler case has been international. Cushman cited telegrams sent to Trudeau and Choquette from New Zealand, Belgium, France, England, Scotland, Italy, and the USA. Members of the American Medical Association went on a letter-writing campaign. English women picketted Canada House while French and Belgian women picketted the Canadian embassies in their countries.

Trade union response, said Cushman, has also been excellent. Unions have offered financial aid, press coverage, and office space as well as endorsation of the Committee to Defend Dr. Morgentaler.

Carlla Kennedy, a member of the Civil Servants' Association (CSA) at Edmonton' s University Hospital, announced from the audience that their local of the CSA had voted unanimously to put a motion of support to Dr. Morgentaler before the provincial CSA convention.

"It' s no accident, " she said, "that the balloons released by the self-styled ' Right to Lifers' in a Parliament Hill demonstration were stamped with the words ' Weston' s Bread' ". The Weston' s balloons represented the souls of foetuses.

"The only way Dr. Morgentaler is going to be able to continue to practise abortion, the only way we' re going to keep abortion under Alberta Health Care, " said Cushman, "is if we' re together and fighting . . . . If there hadn' t have been a movement which was constantly keeping the issue before the public, the acquittal would never have happened. . . . The jury reflected the public opinion built by the repeal movement. "

Meanwhile she reported, two Montreal women are dying because they tried to self-abort while Morgentaler was in court. One used a coat hanger; the other used chlorex.

If you want information about the Edmonton Committee to Defend Dr. Morgentaler, call Angela Mueller 433-8998 or Sheila Mawson 433-2844.

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Man and Resources

L'Homme et les ressources

Resourses Conference

Indian Voice Ignored Again

by Ed Matwichuk

Nearly six hundred delegates attending the national Man and Resources Conference in Toronto (Nov. 18-22) were shocked when they were informed during their final plenary, of the Quebec Court of Appeals decision to lift the injunction against James Bay construction work.

The conference was the culmination of the two year Man and Resources program created by the Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers (made up of ministers from the 10 provinces and the Federal government), to involve the public in producing guidelines for governments on matters relating to resources and the environment.

An emergency resolution urging Indian Affairs minister Jean Chretien to appeal the Quebec Court decision to the Supreme Court was passed by the conference with a large majority.

Another resolution calling for Federal intervention to halt the Churchill River diversion was passed with an equally large majority.

Twelve issues of national concern were established during a Man and Resources National Workshop held in the fall of 1972. Among these were citizen participation, envioronmental protection, foreign ownership, growth ethic and social values, and energy.

Throughout the ensuing year, task force reports on the twelve issues were written, and finally distributed to the delegates at the November 1973 conference.

Most delegates to the conference were elected from community groups across the country; industry, government and labour unions were also represented. Delegates were divided into groups working on one of the twelve previously defined issues.

The native people at the conference decided to form their own group and issue a separate report. They felt that a statement of their position on more immediate issues was necessary. (See separate native group report and resolutions, next week.)

Reactions of the delegates to the conference were mixed. At the close, almost all were satisfied that a meaningful set of documents had been drawn up.

Many felt that Citizen Participation was the most important issue -- to what extent would information on environmental and resource issues be made public? To what extent would citizens' views on these issues be solicited? How representative would these citizens be of the peoples of Canada, and what weight would recommendations of citizens be given when government policy was being formulated?

It was noted that native people, women, and working class people were underrepresented.

Three native people from Kenora, Ontario (representing hundreds of people whose health has been endangered and in many cases damaged, and whose livelihood as commercial fishermen had been destroyed by severe mercury pollution) demanded entrance to the conference claiming they had not been informed of the Man and Resources Program.

The question on everyone's mind throughout was, "Will they really listen to the recommendations we make?" In his speech at the closing banquet, Bill Yurko, Alberta's Minister of the Environment and Chairman elect of C. R. E. E. M. said that "governments must heed Man and Resources guidelines."

But on the basis of the termination of the Man and Resources Program and on the lack of specific committments from ministers, many delegates were skeptical.

John Gasson, Executive Director of the Canadian Association in support of Northern Peoples summed up the sentiment of a large number of delegates when he said, "Yurko was talking motherhood, but at no time has he any intention of getting pregnant."

Man and Resources

L'Homme et les ressources

South African Laws

WORK

A LABOUR OFFICER may, at any time, cancel the employment of an African who works in a town, no matter how long he has been employed even though his employer opposes the cancellation. An African whose employment has been cancelled, may be removed from the town where he worked, and prohibited from returning to that town for such a period as the Labour Officer specifies.

IT IS UNLAWFUL for an African worker to take part in a strike for any reason whatsoever.

AN AFRICAN FACTORY WORKER who calls on other workers to strike for an increase in pay commits a criminal offence.

AN AFRICAN FACTORY WORKER who is absent from work for 24 hours without permission, in addition to being dismissed, is guilty of a criminal offence.

A WHITE WORKMAN who is permanently 100 percent disabled is entitled to a monthly pension based on his earnings; an African similarly disabled is entitled to a lump sum based on his earnings, but not to a monthly pension.

IF A WHITE WORKMAN dies as a result of an accident, his dependants are entitled to a lump sum and a monthly pension based on his earnings; the dependants of an African workman who dies as a result of an accident are not entitled to a monthly pension, but only to "such lump sum as the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner deems equitable".

EDUCATION

NO SCHOOL for the education of African children may be conducted anywhere in South Africa unless it is registered by the Government and the Minister of Bantu Education has an unfettered discretion to refuse to register it.

THE MINISTER of Bantu Education may at any time, and without being required to give any reason for doing so, withdraw any subsidy previously granted by him to a school maintained by an African tribe or community.

AN AFRICAN living in a town who, without being paid for his services, conducts in his own home, a class in reading and writing for a few of his African friends, is guilty of a criminal offence.

A WHITE MAN who spends a few hours each week in his own home, teaching his African servants to read, is guilty of a criminal offence.

MARRIAGE" ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

AN AFFRICAN born in a town, who has lived ther continuously for 50 years, is not entitled as a right to have an African friend visit and remain with him more than 72 hours.

IT IS UNLAWFUL for a white person and a non-white person to drink a cup of tas together in a cafe anywhere in South Africa unless they have obtained a special permit to do so.

IF AN ASIAN (or a Coloured person or an African) sits on a bench in a public park (the bench being set apart for the exclusive use of white persons) by way of protest against the aparthied laws, he commits a criminal offence.

AN UNMARRIED MAN who "in appearance obviously is or who by general acceptance and repute is a white person" and who attempts to have sexual intercourse with a woman who is not "obviously in appearance or repute a white person", is guilty of a criminal offence punishable by imprisonment with compulsory hard labour for not longer than seven years.

Taken from Developax, an educational publication of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace.

Alcan uses Africans for cheap labour

KINGSTON (CUP) -- The Aluminum Company of Canada (Alcan) is paying less than subsistence wages to blacks in South Africa, Hugh Nangle, deputy editor of the Montreal gazette, told students here recently.

Nangle was expelled from South Africa for writing seven articles on Canadian industries there.

He said that, of the 706 blacks working at Alcan, 703 are paid wages lower than the poverty datum line. This is the minimum wage necessary to maintain good health and good standards on the barest budget. It includes no allotment for entertainment, not even the price of a newspaper. Wages average $131.90 a month.

This is direct contradiction to the company's proclamation that "Alcan realizes people are the company's most valuable asset."

He noted that a large proportion of the blacks in South Africa are forced to work in white areas where they do not have basic human rights and must carry special permits to move from one area to another.

They also are not permitted to vote or to form trade unions, he added.

Industries such as Ford of Canada, Bata Industries Ltd., Massey Ferguson, Sun Life of Canada, Alcan and Falconbridge Mines Ltd., have invested about 100 million dollars in South Africa, Nangle informed the students.

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Siberia & Greenland: a

Editor's Note: According to James Harding, over 40% of Indian-Metis families in Canada obtain $1000 or less per year.

The 1961 census reported that the Indian and Metis were the least employed segment of the employable labour force in Canada. Only 15.9% of the total employable Indians and Metis were in the labour force that year.

Over 16% of Indian and Metis families live in one-room shacks, and over 50% of them live in three or fewer rooms.

The infant mortality rate for people of Indian ancestry is three times the national average, i.e., for every 1000 births among people of Indian ancestry there are 75 deaths.

Only one-quarter of the Indian and Metis populations attain a grade 6 level. In 1962-63, only six Indian students were registered at universities. People of Indian ancestry require hospitalization twice as often as the rest of the Canadian population.
(From "The Powerless Minority", by James Harding, in Canadian Dimension Kit No. 10: Native People Kit.)

by Katrina Lougheed

Many Albertans seem to believe that Native peoples in Canada are somehow 'naturally inclined' to be unintelligent, lazy, alcoholic, and unsuited for professional or technical occupations. The implication of this view is that all attempts by governments and other organizations to improve the social and economic conditions of Native people are doomed to failure because Native people are somehow 'naturally" incapable of improvement. Thus, tax money that is spent for such purposes is 'wasted'.

This view has no scientific basis in genetics, or in any other scientific discipline; however, the persistence of social and economic problems of Native peoples is often treated as evidence for it. In light of this situation, one would expect that Native peoples outside Canada, with cultural similarities to Canadian Native peoples, would also suffer from persistent economic and social underdevelopment. In other words, Native people in Greenland, Siberia, and Alaska who look like Canadian Native peoples, and whose cultures, like those of Canadian Native peoples, were adapted to Northern conditions before European penetration, would also suffer from chronic alcoholism, poverty, unemployment, lack of education, etc.

While this may be the case in Alaska, it is not the case in Greenland and Siberia, where Native peoples do not suffer from these problems to anywhere near the degree that Native peoples in Canada do.

For example, Farley Mowat describes the modern history of the Yakut people in Siberia as follows: "In 1917, Yakutsk (the capital of what is today the Yakut Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic) had a population of seven thousand people and was the only "large' town in the immensity of north central and eastern Siberia - a region half the size of the United States. Essentially it was not very different from similar, if smaller, frontier settlements in the Canadian north and in Alaska, for it epitomized the general state of inertia and neglect which characterized such places and which still characterizes many of them to this day."

"The blight of internal colonialism began to disappear from Yakutia in 1919 when the Yakut people, in revolt against the Russian Empire, took back almost the whole of the original region they had owned before the coming of the white man. They were encouraged by Lenin and other Soviet leaders to form their own republic."

Basil Protodiakonov, a Yakut author and a professor of history at the Yakut State University, described developments in Yakutia since 1917 to Mowat as follows: "We had to fight hard to stay free. First we were invaded by Admiral Kolchak's White troops, and we threw them out. Then Pepeleyov, a White general armed by the Japanese and the Americans, invaded our land, but we beat him too. There were raids into Yakutia from Mongolia until 1924 but all were repulsed. It is not easy to take freedom away from a people who have just escaped three hundred years of oppression."

Protodiakonov continued, "To tell you something about the progress we have made since the Revolution, there is the fact that we have almost tripled our numbers. There are now 300,000 Yakut of pure blood not to mention the people of mixed Russian and Yakut blood. Our land now has a population of over 700,000, including people from almost every state in the Soviet Union; and our city of Yakutsk has 110,000 people. We welcome all newcomers and do not fear they will take our land away from us for we are so strong within ourselves."

Pride

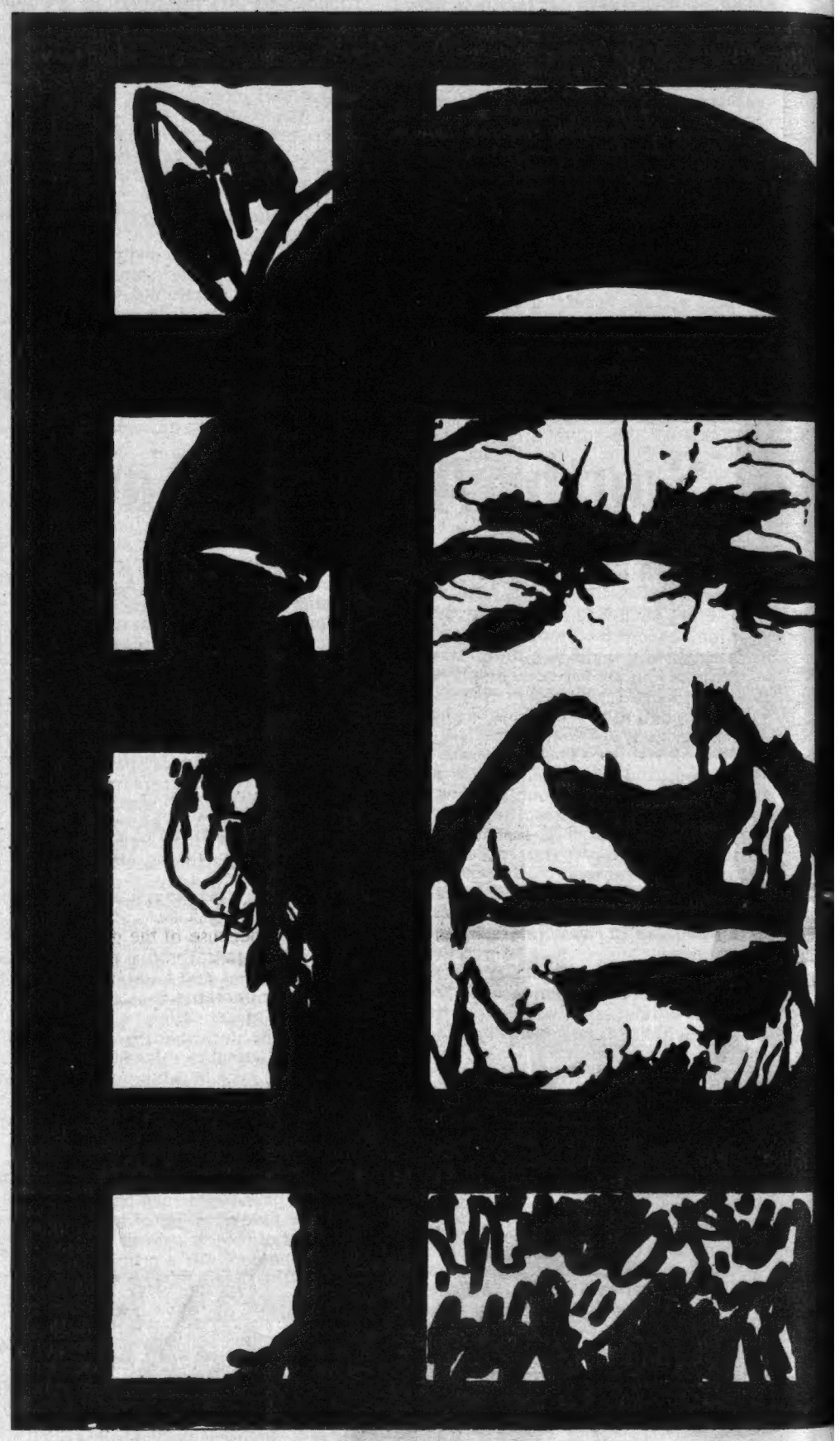
"Knowledge has made us strong, and has given us back our pride. Since 1924 we have had our own written language. Our children spend their first years at school studying in their native tongue and using textbooks written by our own Yakut educators.

"In 1917, Yakut people were almost totally illiterate and now there is no illeteracy. We have eight hundred grade schools; 780 kindergartens; eighteen high level technical schools; and our own State University. Nearly 50,000 Yakut now have higher education degrees of university level. We have our own state theatre producing Yakut drama, opera and ballet, and our own symphony orchestra. There are twenty-eight newspapers in the Yakut language. We have our own television and radio system; eight museums; more than six hundred libraries . . ."

Mowat writes, "In 1917 there was neither doctor nor nurse in the district of Yakutia. Now there is a one-hundred-bed district hospital; four cottage hospitals and twelve nursing stations; staffed by twenty-four doctors and 184 medical workers."

"Everything is bought and sold through consumer co-ops. Profits from the co-ops are either returned to the members or, by a vote decision, may be used for community projects. All goods and services are paid for in cash and the co-ops do seven million rubles worth of business each year." (In 1960 to 1969 when Mowat collected this data, the ruble had a value of $1.22 Canadian)

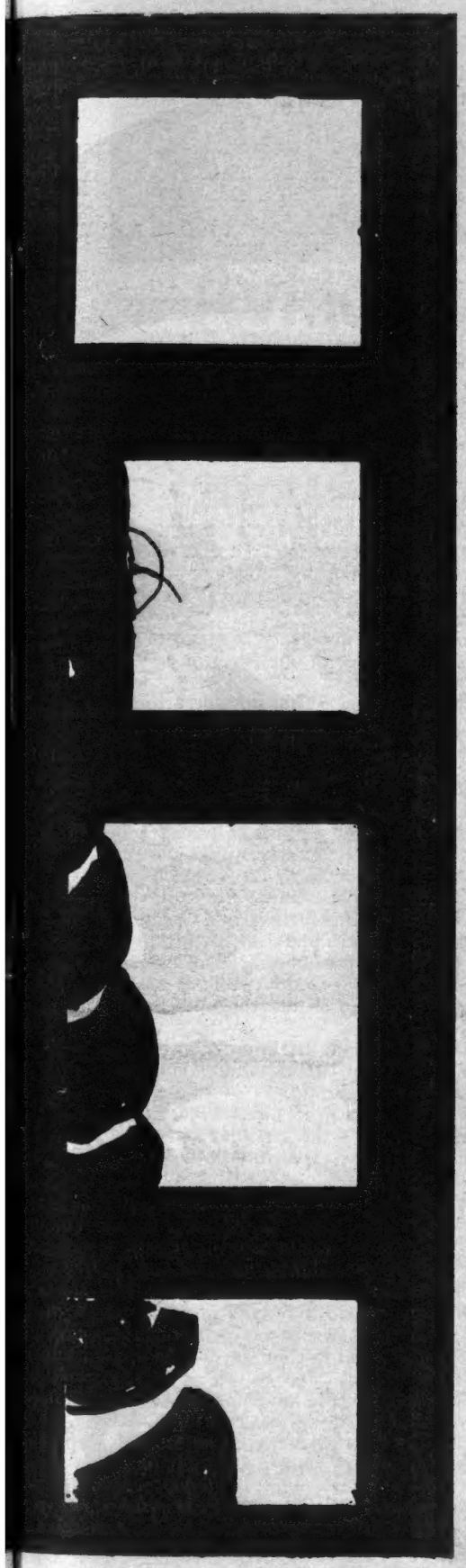
"The average income for a farm worker doing an unskilled job is one hundred to two hundred rubles a month. Skilled workers, such as animal breeders in charge of the cattle and the horses, average two hundred rubles. In addition all workers get a share of the products of the farms (meat, grain, eggs, milk, butter, etc.) which is sufficient for the family needs. They also keep privately owned livestock and have their own gardens or small farms. They receive the usual benefits including free medical care, pensions, subsidized living quarters (rentals for a family dwelling, including electricity and heating averages eight to ten rubles a month), paid vacations with travel allowances, etc.



Dr. Andreev, a member of the U. S. S. R. Academy of Sciences and winner of the Lenin Prize for his reindeer work, told Mowat: "Now the reindeer industry is the most valuable husbandry of the north. It outclasses cattle breeding, fishing trapping or fur raising.

In 1968, in Chukotka (a National District in eastermost Siberia), the cash return from their base herd of half-a-million reindeer was fourteen million. The Chukchee and Eskimo who are the natives of that region are becoming

better life for native people



amongst the best-paid people in the Soviet Union.

The new developments there - the new cities - are being supplied with reindeer meat at very low cost, and the inhabitants much prefer the fresh meat to canned or frozen meats which must be transported from the south at very great expense.

"Meat is not the only product. About half-a-million hides are now processed annually into high-grade suede. Tanned hides with the hair attached are in increasing demand for standard northern clothing, and in the south for fashion clothing. Reindeer hair is used for mattress stuffing and, since it is hollow and very light, for life preservers..."

Mowat concludes, "Most of the urban Yakut are concentrated in Yakutsk (the capital), where they retain an absolute majority, set the city's cultural tone, control the local Soviet (town council) and in general maintain the Yakut "fact". They do not contribute many working people to the new mining and industrial towns and cities which, for the most part, are peopled by young European immigrants conditioned by, and products of, a technological society. The Yakut and Evenk seem happy to let these new people dig the mines, build the power stations, and generally do the work involved in the gargantuan natural resource development which has made Yakutia a major element in the economy of the Soviet Union. The urban-oriented Yakut have deliberately chosen to involve themselves in the consumer industries, most of which have direct links with, and in truth grew out of, traditional skills and occupations."

Achievement

In order to appreciate the magnitude of the Soviet achievement with regard to social and economic development, coupled with the preservation of the cultures, of the "Small Peoples" of Siberia, it is necessary to note that, before the October Revolution, Siberian Natives were exploited by fur traders in the same ways that Canadian Native peoples were exploited by the Hudson's Bay and by the Northwest Company.

S. V. Slavin writes, "In the North (i. e. Siberia) and especially in the Asiatic part, only Russian trading firms operated. Because of the great difficulty involved in delivering goods to these remote trackless areas and because this required considerable capital outlay, all trade with the native population of northern Siberia came to be controlled by a closed group of merchants, who had an extensive network of agents among the local population.

They made huge profits by selling the goods the northern people wanted for their economic activities and everyday life at exorbitant prices and by buying up valuable furs cheaply.

Their greatest source of income was the sale of alcohol. To increase their profits the merchants brought the hunters and reindeer breeders under their control by granting them extensive credit." Sound familiar?

In spite of these beginnings, the "Small Peoples" of the Soviet far North area among the most socially and economically advanced aboriginal peoples in the world.

There is evidence that Canadian government officials seem reluctant to allow Native people in Canada to know what's going on in Siberia. For example, Mowat quotes the comments of Alexandra Yakovlevna, Chairperson of the Supreme Soviet of the Yakut A. S. S. R., who visited Canada during Expo: "When I visited Canada they refused to show me any of your native people, or where they lived and worked. The authorities would not even take me to the Canadian Indian-Eskimo pavilion at Expo. Nevertheless I made up my mind when they came here I would be sure to show them how our people lived. Can you believe it? They wouldn't look. All they wanted to see was how we manage to build mines and mining towns in eternal frost (permafrost). Don't they care at all about people? Are they only interested in the quickest way to turn their country into a colony for exploitation by the Americans, the Germans and Japanese? Such foolish little men. You really should get rid of them."

In Greenland, where Eskimo life is largely under control of the Danish government, Eskimos enjoy social conditions that are far superior to those enjoyed by Eskimos in Canada.

Charles C. Hughes writes, "An active voluntary associational life exists even in the villages, supported by extensive communicational contacts with the larger cities. Radios, movies, clubs, sports activities, study circles, and other activities fill the social scene."

Hughes continues, "In all these communities a full set of social, recreational, and welfare exists in addition to the formal governmental, political, and economic infrastructure.

In the area of social welfare, for example, old age assistance is available to all persons over fifty-five years old incapable of supporting themselves, and there is indigent relief and orphan assistance. A social security plan exists, and loans are made by the government for the building of houses.

"Medical facilities have existed for a long time, in the form of hospitals, sanatoriums, and, more recently, floating clinics to service outlying areas."

Education

"Schooling, too, has long been a part of the Greenlanders' scene, and it is claimed that of the adult population everyone is literate in the Greenlandic languages and some 10 to 15 percent speak Danish."

Charles Brant and Charles Hobart comment on the education of Greenland Eskimos as follows: "... education in Greenland is genuinely integrative and synthetic: students are taught to read and write in both Greenlandic and Danish; they study both Greenlandic and Western European geography, history, literature, art and music; vocational training includes both traditional Greenlandic and modern industrial skills; and instruction takes place in both languages."

"Thus in terms of language, attitudes, and skills, the education seeks to make available to the student two alternatives and two possible identities, the Greenlandic and the Danish. No doubt few are able to actualize both very fully, but the significant point is that the school does not prejudge the alternatives. Insofar as possible it makes both available to the student."

Albertans who regard Canadian Native People as somehow 'naturally' unintelligent, lazy, etc., should take a close look at the social and economic development of Native peoples in Siberia and Greenland. In Siberia, Native peoples had many of the same problems that Native peoples in Canada presently face. Yet, when Native people in Siberia were confronted with opportunities for social and economic development that involved non-capitalist methods of production and distribution, and that were largely consistent with their traditional cultures, they took advantage of them. Surely, if Canadian Native peoples were confronted with similar opportunities, they would do the same. Therefore, it is a mistake to attribute chronic social problems among Canadian Native peoples to their 'natural inclinations.'

Furthermore, the advanced social and economic development of Native peoples in Greenland and Siberia raises the question of why the Canadian government has not adopted policies with regard to the social and economic development of Canadian Native peoples that are similar to those adopted by the Danish and Soviet governments.

Experiments

Mowat sheds light on this question when he writes about what happened to experiments with a reindeer industry in Canada and Alaska that could have greatly benefitted Native peoples in those regions:

"It seems incredible that a free enterprise, competitive society such as ours should not have turned... reindeer ... into a going industry. The truth is that we tried--or, rather, a pair of perceptive young men in Alaska did. They were the Lomas brothers and they saw what the Soviets and Scandinavians were seeing and acted on that vision. Largely due to their efforts, a herd of nearly a million reindeer came into existence in Alaska, employing many hundreds of Eskimos as well as whites."

Mowat continues, "But there was a catch. The market for the meat was in the south, and soon after the first shipments reached San Francisco the demand for reindeer meat became so great that the beef barons became alarmed. They went to Washington. Not long thereafter, reindeer meat was embargoed by law in the United States. Deprived of markets by the beef lobby, the Lomas herds went into decline and today there are only about 30,000 reindeer left in all Alaska."

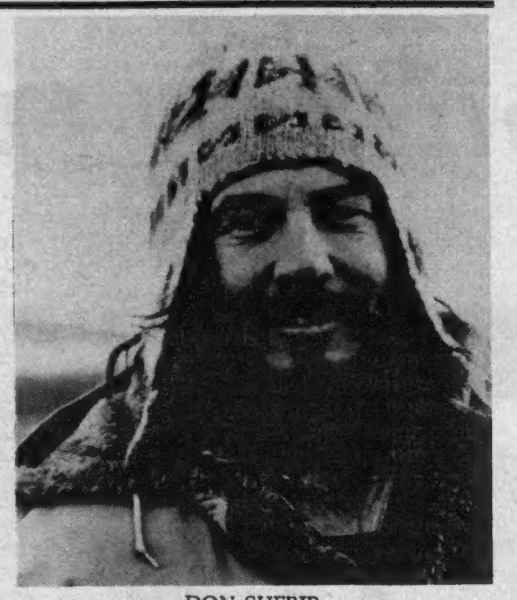
Husbandry

Then Mowat describes what happened in Canada. "Reindeer husbandry suffered a similar fate in Canada. During the 1930's, a herd of several thousand reindeer was purchased from the Lomas brothers and brought to the mouth of the Mackenzie River. It was intended as the nucleus for herds which would spread right across the Canadian arctic, thereby providing a means of livelihood for the northern natives while at the same time supplying a valuable export to the south. Those who planned this concept were honest men--and they were simple dreamers. Immediately the significance of the plan was realized in the south, the Canadian government of the day lowered the boom. Successive governments have kept it down. Today the dream is represented by a token herd of fewer than three thousand animals, and the current Canadian government and its corps of so-called arctic experts explode in a fury of embarrassment when reminded that the herd exists at all."

If non-Native Canadian working people knew of the progress that has been made by Native peoples in Greenland and Siberia, they might be able to avoid racist ideas about Native peoples in Canada, and form links with them in an anti-monopoly movement.

Shebib interview (continued)

Problems in making Canadian films



DON SHEBIB

STEIN: Yeah. Let's apply that thing about the Canadian inferiority complex to film, and talk about some kinds of difficulties. Did you have any money, trouble getting money in Canada to make this film?
SHEBIB: Yes.
STEIN: Did you get all Canadian money in the end?
SHEBIB: It's all Canadian money, yes.
STEIN: And CFDC (Canadian Film Development Corporation) money?
SHEBIB: Yes.
STEIN: What was your budget for this film?
SHEBIB: About $450, 000.
STEIN: So it's pretty low-budget.
SHEBIB: Yeah, because actually there are few films made for under that now in Canada. I think they've gone up an average of $50, 000 a year, maybe even more.
STEIN: That's not accounting for the cost of blowing it up to 35 mm. ?
SHEBIB: Yes it is.
STEIN: So it's a considerable leap up. Did you say you had enough money to make this film?
SHEBIB: No, not nearly enough. I really suffered.
STEIN: Artistically?
SHEBIB: Yes, very strongly.
STEIN: What were some of the ways?
SHEBIB: Well, I had a very bad Fall, I mean the season, and I got snowed out . . . There's a couple of very funny scenes in the film that were really necessary to the film and I was never able to shoot them because I got snowed out. We spent maybe $15, 000 to $20, 000 trying to shoot those scenes and we didn't turn a frame of film for the camera. If I'd had the money, we would have gone down to Nashville or somewhere 200 miles south of Toronto and shot the scenes out in the street, it was exterior of course, and I could have shot it there and it would have passed for Toronto.

But I had to get away from the snow and the snow came last year in Toronto in the middle of November and it didn't go. Then when I went up to Sudbury and I was looking for snow, because that's the mining town where the robbery takes place, there wasn't any snow. 400 miles north of Toronto and there was no snow. So I had to sit around and wait for that. Those scenes that I was never able to shoot I think hurt me badly.

Finally I got so frustrated I said well fuck it, I don't want to even bother shooting it because it was just driving me nuts wasting that money and not being able to shoot it.

$450, 000 is literally enough money to hang yourself. If you drew a graph and on one side put the amount of money the film cost and on the other side put the amount of freedom that you have, it's not a 45 degree slope; it's a parabolic curve. In other words, anything under $200, 000 you're okay. For that you've got to be shooting almost exclusively in 16 mm. if you've got any sense whatsoever. And anything over three-quarters of a million dollars, if it's a contemporary story and not some costume period . . .

But in that range from about $200, 000 to $750, 000, you've got enough money to get yourself into trouble and not enough to get yourself out of trouble. By that I mean, when you're shooting something like Goin' Down the Road for $100, 000 and you don't want to shoot today or you can't shoot, well you've got a three-man crew so you can take the day off and come back tomorrow. If you've got a 15 man crew and it's eating up $6000 a day, you can't say that -- you've got to figure out something else to do.

That's why films cost a million and a half dollars or so. The reason some of them cost that is because the director has bought freedom, freedom from the technical problems, with that money. So in other words they've got the money to get themselves out of trouble, they've got the money so they can say well forget it, the scene isn't right, let's come back tomorrow and we can re-write the scene and get it right. If the scene isn't right, I've got to re-write that scene on the set or else I don't get it. If I was doing it for $100, 000 I could afford that luxury. But in the middle, and most Canadian films are made in that range, it's a very difficult range to make films in.
STEIN: What kind of future does that hold? This is sort of a bullshit question because, if you've been interviewed before I'm sure people have asked you what does it mean to be a Canadian film director and all that stuff like that. Is that going to force you to go outside of Canada and start making films?
SHEBIB: Not necessarily so, no. I'd like to have more money to make them, sure.
STEIN: Do you think that the money market's opening up?
SHEBIB: Here?
STEIN: Yeah.
SHEBIB: Well, this next year will tell because there's a lot of money invested in films made in the past year, especially in English Canada, and if they come through then the situation will be much better.
STEIN: I know banks like Toronto-Dominion are getting into it.
SHEBIB: Yeah, it was in Pyx.
STEIN: Which is making money.
SHEBIB: Yeah, it's making lots of money.
STEIN: I suppose that's good in that it'll encourage them to be interested in doing even more films. Are you sort of forced to prostitute yourself and compromise yourself to go to these people to get money?
SHEBIB: Well I don't do that; I'm not the money raiser so I don't really know. I don't think so. So far there hasn't been any kind of thing that I know of in this country. I don't think there is anymore anywhere, not in the States, either.
STEIN: You just get it or you don't.
SHEBIB: Yeah, sure. I mean, sometimes it's necessary to have a particular star in it or something like that when you're talking about big money.
STEIN: You've got Americans in yours?
SHEBIB: Yes.
STEIN: Was that necessary in terms of satisfying the needs of one investor or another?
SHEBIB: No, none. That consideration was . . .
STEIN: That was an aesthetic consideration.
SHEBIB: Yes, totally. I cast those people because I couldn't find anyone else I thought could play those parts absolutely, totally, utterly, period. Their names are meaningless -- Michael Parks (Toby) has a name from television because of his series Then Came Bronson; but Bonnie Bedelia (the girl), who's one of the great actresses of America, is not known to the public at all.
STEIN: I've heard of her from somewhere . . .
SHEBIB: She was the little pregnant girl in They Shoot Horses, Don't They.
STEIN: Right, right.
SHEBIB: She's terrific, just a dynamite actress. And she's the girl that makes the film, the person that makes the film work.
STEIN: I've heard via the grapevine, as well, that your company or the company that produced this film is also distributing it.
SHEBIB: Yes.
STEIN: As opposed to having found a distributor in the first place and to sew up the deal in that way.
SHEBIB: Yeah.
STEIN: What are the advantages and disadvantages in doing that? Or why did you choose to go that route?
SHEBIB: Well that's not my decision, that's the producer's decision, not mine.
STEIN: The producer was Chalmers Adams.
SHEBIB: Yes. So I have no say in that one way or the other.
STEIN: You don't care.
SHEBIB: Hmmm? As long as the film is properly distributed I don't care whether Jack Benny distributes it or what.
STEIN: That's one of the difficulties, though, I know. For instance, Tom Shandell who did a feature called Another Smith for Paradise, which is still sitting on the shelves.
SHEBIB: Well I haven't seen that film. From what reports I have of it, it's not a particularly good film, but I don't know . . .
STEIN: Well I've only seen the preview.
SHEBIB: Well everyone who's seen it has had bad things to say about it. Now it may be a good film, I don't know.
STEIN: I don't know if it's a good film or not, but I'm not exactly sure if that's the point, given what we already have to see in the theatres.
SHEBIB: I still don't think that Canadian films get as good a shake as they should be able to get from the distributors in this country but it's getting better every year, though, and eventually it will be . . .

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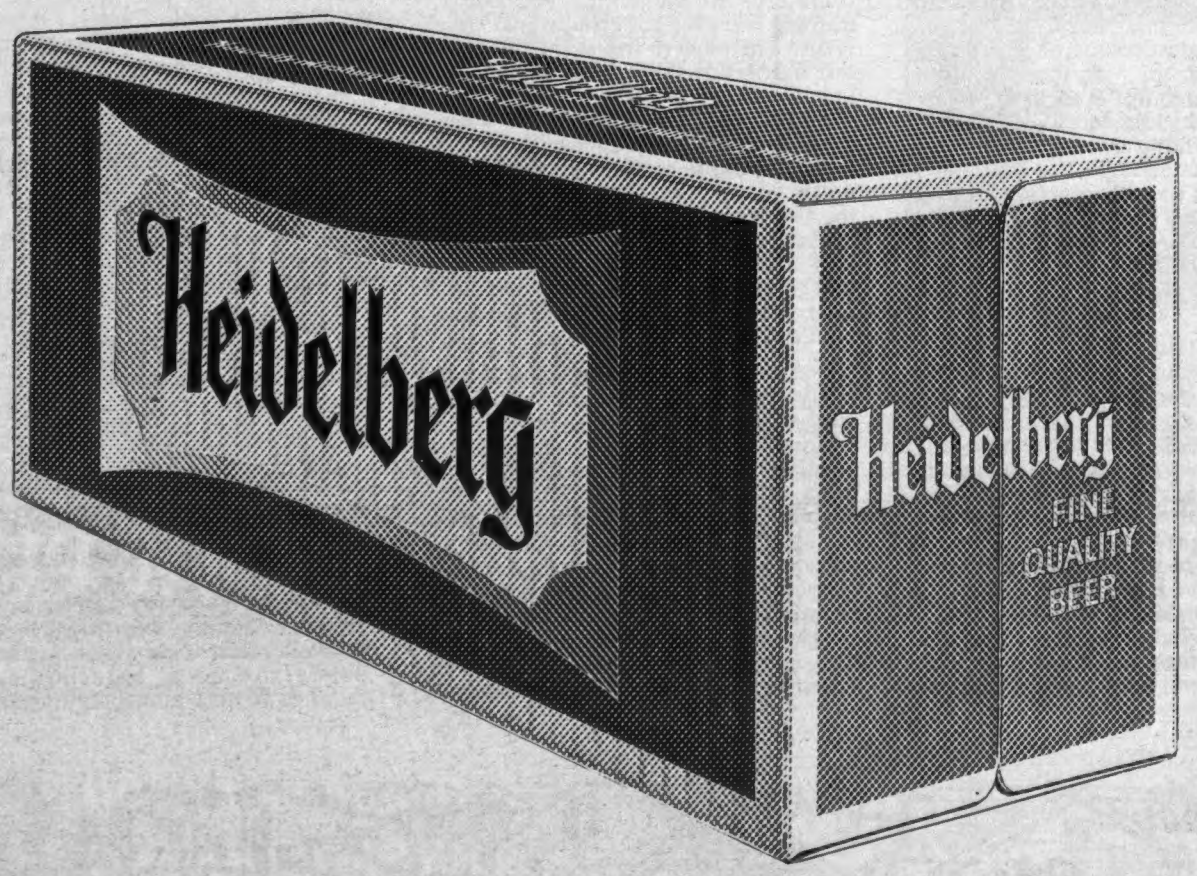

And that's the truth!

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'Joe Egg' show's humor is man's best defense

by Zonia Keywan

Walterdale's second production of this season, A Day in the Death of Joe Egg by British playwright Peter Nichols, has just completed its run. Being unfamiliar with both the play and the playwright, I didn't know what to expect when I entered the theatre, so I was very pleasantly surprised by what I saw. Both the play and its production, under the direction of Keith Digby, were excellent.

Joe Egg combines many diverse qualities: it is at once comic, sentimental, macabre, and tragic.

The play is potentially tragic, for it deals with the attempts of a young couple, Bri and Sheila, to cope with the chronic problem that dominates their life. They are the parents of an eleven-year-old child who has been spastic since shortly after birth. She is, in the words of the Viennese doctor who diagnosed her condition, "a vegetable".

In spite of its sombre theme, the play is, for the most part, comic. Nichols recognizes that humour is often man's best defence against a difficult situation. This is the attitude adopted by Bri and Sheila. Their way of dealing with their personal tragedy is to laugh at it. Bri in particular has learned to shield himself from life's problems behind a mask of cynical, sardonic laughter.

But humour does not solve problems, it simply makes them more bearable. There comes a time when, for Bri, the laughter becomes hollow. Because he can no longer simply laugh at his situation, he must act to change it. This is the substance of the rather frenzied second act.

Act I, which is relaxed and hilarious, is superb. It includes the most delightful and theatrically effective feature of the whole play, a series of little plays within the play. The details of the early stages of their daughter Joe's illness are revealed as Bri and Sheila re-enact their experiences with two doctors and a clergyman. It is obvious that acting out these scenes from the past has become a comforting ritual for the couple.

The second act has some flaws, most of which can be attributed more to the play itself than to the production. A great deal happens in this act, and the direction of the action changes several times, causing a certain amount of confusion. The ending, which is ambiguous, brings yet another complication to the play at a point when it seemed to be resolved.

Few faults can be found with the performance of the cast. Ray Hunt does an excellent job with the very demanding role of Bri, who is, in effect, the main character of the play. Susan Woywitka, while giving a fine performance, seems to be slightly miscast. Nichols' Sheila is "thirty-five, generously built, serious and industrious". Ms. Woywitka is too attractive, too sweet, and not enough of a smothering mother. For this reason, Bri's complaints about her seem unjustified. Jeremy Fuller, Kimm Culkin, and Elsa Houba are very effective and amusing as secondary characters: Freddie, the rich socialist do-gooder, Pam, his silly snobbish wife; and Grace, Bri's talkative, interfering mother.

If you intend to see any of Walterdale's future productions, and I would advise you to do so, reserve your ticket well in advance. The Walterdale Theatre is very small, and their productions are always well attended.

Next on their agenda is a performance by Young Walterdale of David and Lisa, which will run from Dec. 12-15.

Szabo

Avison's all right with me

When John Avison, the conductor of the Vancouver Chamber Orchestra, made his guest appearance with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra last Saturday evening at the Jubilee Auditorium, one would have been justified in not pitching one's expectations too high. Avison and his Vancouver group have often been broadcast on the CBC and have seldom impressed this writer as anything more than a passably acceptable chamber orchestra with a dutiful but unispired conductor.

Last Saturday evening, however, I am pleased to report that John Avison managed to erase the thoroughly grey image I had had of him and supplant it with that of a most tasteful, cultivated and urbane artist.

He opened the evening with a spacious and well-articulated performance of Mozart's Don Giovanni Overature which impressed rather by what it did not do than by what it did. There was no romantic exaggeration in the slow sections and no break-neck speed in the faster ones to mask a lack of understanding with virtuoso tricks. It was by no means overwhelming but nevertheless a thoroughly solid beginning.

The rest of the first half of the evening's rather lengthy programme was devoted to Haydn's 94th symphony (the familiar "Surprise" Symphony) and Dvorak's Czech Suite. Both performances proved Avison to be a most sophisticated orchestral general, indeed.

The elegant but vigorous performance of the Haydn symphony was marked by an intimate chamber-like quality that would have seemed impossible in the Jubilee. Avison's extreme sensitivity to dynamic contrast stood him in particular good stead in a most disarming performance of the second movement. The laendler-like quality with which he enhanced the menuetto underscored Haydn's rustic vigor, and his superb phrasing in the last movement resulted in a sparkling and zestful finale.

Dvorak's Czech Suite received equally sympathetic treatment. Never brash or vulgar, Avison opted for a controlled interpretation which was certainly justified by the results. The serenity of the Pastorale prelude set the tone for the rest of the work. In the Polka section Avison's sensitive treatment of the dynamic subtleties resulted in a bright and charming preformance. With superb sense of balance the winds were allowed to give the Minuetto just the right rural touch. The lyricism of the Romanza was highlighted by particularly commendable solo work by principal flautist Harlan Green and English hornist Terri Hart. The high-spirited finale capped with well-articulated vigor a thoroughly enjoyable first half.

The second half of the evening's programme consisted of Paganini's second violin concerto and the Music for Dancing of the contemporary Canadian composer, John Beckwith. Guest violinist Franco Gulli proved more than equal to the task of virtuoso showmanship that Paganini's typically pretentious piece demanded. One perspicacious member of the audience told me after the concert that the concerto seemed to him to be a sort of challenge to pat your head with one hand and rub your stomach in a circular motion with the other at the same time.

Though Paganini left him little room to show anything else, Gulli certainly provided convincing proof of his dexterity and this was enough to bring the house down--led, incidentally, by all the budding young Paganinis in the violin section of the orchestra. It speaks volumes for the enthusiasm with which technicians are churned out by music schools, and makes one wonder when the lesson will sink in that art is not a circus, but a matter of communication on the topic of man. Dancing bears and the like should be kept off the artistic stage, and I would have preferred Gulli's obvious talents to be displayed in a perhaps equally difficult but meatier piece.

Beckwith's Music for Dancing which ended the concert was an able piece that seemed slightly awkward as a result of being denuded of the dancers for which it was written. But it was not displeasing and seemed to receive as decent a performance as one could tell without prior acquaintance with the work.

All in all, however, despite the Paganini side-show, it was a triumphant evening for John Avison.

by Franz Szabo

Arts Notes!

Apprentice actors with the Citadel will be performing Shaw's ARMS AND THE MAN.

The plot centres on the concealment of a fugitive soldier by a romantic young girl. The girl's fiance, who led the charge which routed the enemy, returns. Complications naturally result.

The play will be presented on November 29, 30 and December 1 at the Centennial Library at 8 p. m., on December 4 at Glengarry Library- 7:30 p. m., on December 7 at Dickinsfield Library- 7:30 p. m., and December 8 at Southgate Library- 7:30 p. m.

All the participants in the production except director John Madill are between 16 and 22.

"Participants in the workshop and the production," said Madill, "have revealed considerable ability and performance maturity. Some have already shown they have the potential for successful professional careers in the theatre."

(Continued on Page 11)

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LETTERS PAGE
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Cavanaugh cajoles

Dear POUNDMAKER Collective:
Re: "Bollo Bellows" (19/25 Nov. is.)

In the ongoing forum so graciously provided by POUNDMAKER between Mr. Bollo and myself, may I sound a concluding note? I should like to address myself to Mr. Bollo.

Louis:

Your clarified position greatly suited and pleased me. May I express my appreciation for your reply? A reply as well reasoned and as sensitive as it was deserves appreciation.

I must commend your attitude to hunting. It is far and away the only reasonable argument I have yet heard. But, there remains one point at which we shall have to agree to disagree. Your acceptance of the responsibility of the kill, your appreciation of the sanctity of life are laudable. However, I suggest that it might be far better placed in acknowledging the same regret and responsibility for beef. Surely, though you must buy the beef in a package, you can appreciate its origins . . . and the fact that an animal life has fed you. There can, I suggest, be no great deepening of this appreciation in one's actual, physical participation in the kill. The eater still has the responsibility. As gruesome a choice as it is, it is clear that one has the choice between the animal living in a wild, free state, and one bred and raised for the purpose of death and the feeding of man. If we must eat meat, why can it not simply be that animal designated for the specific purpose. It is no longer necessary to take the life of a free animal. Better to preserve it, and respect its freedom, thanking what powers there are that at least we are spared from killing everything.

I recognize that it is a fine distinction I make, but distinctions of compassion must always be fine. The need is gone to kill more than we raise for the purpose. The ritual is empty. Perhaps Margaret Atwood puts it best:

"The Festival"
What festival do they celebrate, these hunters
in their orange and red coats,
their caps with ears?

They make fires in the forests
punch holes in cans
and circle tensely among the trees.

They must be waiting
for the god to appear,
crossed in the sights of their rifles.
(it is the ceremony
they say, that gives a sacramental
meaning to butchered meat).

The man with antlers
hoping to shoot, at the right moment,
so the year will die properly.

Nobody has told them
they are in the wrong century,
the wrong
country.

Thank you, Mr. Bollo, for your attention. It is my hope that you will consider whether the ceremony is truly valid. At the least, I am assured that you are a far different hunter from the others. Even if I feel the ceremony is misplaced, at least you appreciate the magnitude of the act, and the sanctity of life.

Barry J. Cavanaugh

Another Purge?

Dear POUNDMAKER:

You may be wondering what the V-P academic is doing for his school this month?

Well his latest motion to GFC proposes to limit certain student's eligibility for positions on GFC. Even though GFC has difficulty filling all its student positions, Mr. Pat Delaney chooses to try to make things more difficult for students wishing to get a seat on GFC.

Some say that Mr. Delaney's motion is directed towards one particular member of GFC, so that Pat can have his job when this person is made an ineligible student.

Well, Pat, now that we have found you out I don't think your motion will pass. Better luck next time.

697200

Quebec and The Military

Dear POUNDMAKER:

Your October 29th - November 4th headline does yourselves and your readers a disservice - (Federal troops march in Quebec again). The 'story' does not accurately reflect the situation.

The troops were moved by personnel-carriers, not tanks, from Camp Valcartier to the military establishment adjacent to the Plains of Abraham. The reason was an inspection at their official regimental headquarters, a quite normal military function. The fact that there are extra troops at Valcartier is also a regular, not a special occurence as you implied, since this is a training area. Do you feel intimidated because troops regularly arrive at Suffield? New Brunswickers don't worry about troops arriving at Gagetown, nor do Quebeckers feel concerned about movement around their city--they see it all the time. Had you viewed the television shots of those "intimidated" residents you would have seen interest on faces, and people waving at the soldiers.

The money that left Quebec a few years ago by Brinks trucks was both anglophone and francophone money and the armoured cars were commercial, not military vehicles. If you will remember too, most 'Quebeckers' were not a little concerned over kidnappings and a murder.

The sound and fury arising from this recent military exercise was, we suggest, simply created by René Levesque setting the groundwork for his inevitable defeat by pre-prepared excuses.

This Union took two defence units, manned by civilians, on strike two years ago. The Armed Forces were under orders 'not to scab' our members. We know they will only be used as is proper, in defence of national integrity. Should Quebec politicians decide to opt out of our Country, I for one hope these men will hold us together--if necessary by force of arms. 'Tis fine to talk about provincial sovereignty; what about Canada?'

Your efforts, otherwise, to educate students in the workers problems, is appreciated. But please, don't forget soldiers are 'workers' too.

Fraternally yours,
N. D. Porter
Research Director
Union of National Defence Employees

You're Wrong!

Dear POUNDMAKER Collective:

Since I was responsible for the story on "Federal troops march in Quebec again" (Oct. 29), I feel called upon to reply to Mr. N. D. Porter's letter.

The sources of the story were QUEBEC PRESSE and the Canadian University Press (CUP). QUEBEC-PRESSE is financed and supported by the three main unions in Quebec -- CNTU, QFL, and CEQ. Thus QUEBEC-PRESSE represents the voice of workers in Quebec. Apparently the unionized workers of Quebec felt intimidated since the news was featured in their own newspaper.

In your explanation of the troop movements, Mr. Porter, you offer the official explanations. But given the political conflict as it is in Quebec, what took place could not have been interpreted as anything other than a provocation.

In the next paragraph, Mr. Porter, you mention the famous Brinks "coup" of 1970. You say that "most 'Quebeckers' were not a little concerned over kidnappings and a murder". But the FLQ crisis took place in October, and the Quebec election had taken place on April 29 previously. Thus the Brinks incident had nothing to do with the La Porte-Cross kidnappings.

You say that Rene Levesque (I assume you mean the PQ as a whole) suffered an "inevitable defeat". However 38% of French-speaking Quebeckers voted for the PQ. The support of the Montreal east-end working class has been crucial to what electoral success has been achieved by the PQ. In 1970, the party won six of its seven seats in such areas. The picture was the same in 1973.

As for your remark that you hope the army will hold Confederation together by force of arms "if necessary", all I can do is to condemn such tactics. Using force to suppress what would be the democratic wishes of the Quebec people cannot be termed other than nationalist fascism. Mr. Porter, please carefully rethink your position before you advocate again the use of force in suppression of our democratic constitution.

In your last paragraph, you say that soldiers are also workers. I acknowledge that but too often in our country armed forces of various kinds -- the RCMP, the Militia, and the Army -- have been used against other sections of the working class. The bourgeoisie uses a policy of divide and rule when possible.

Please, Mr. Porter, read an article in the Canadian Historical Review of 1970 which recounts that between 1867 and 1918, the militia was used 48 times in aid of the civil power. In 33 cases of this 48, the militia was used against the workers and their wage and class struggles.

In conclusion, I cannot but wonder if Mr. Porter would be so complacent if large parades of troops and tanks took place down Jasper Avenue just before important elections.

Yours sincerely,
Francois Hardy

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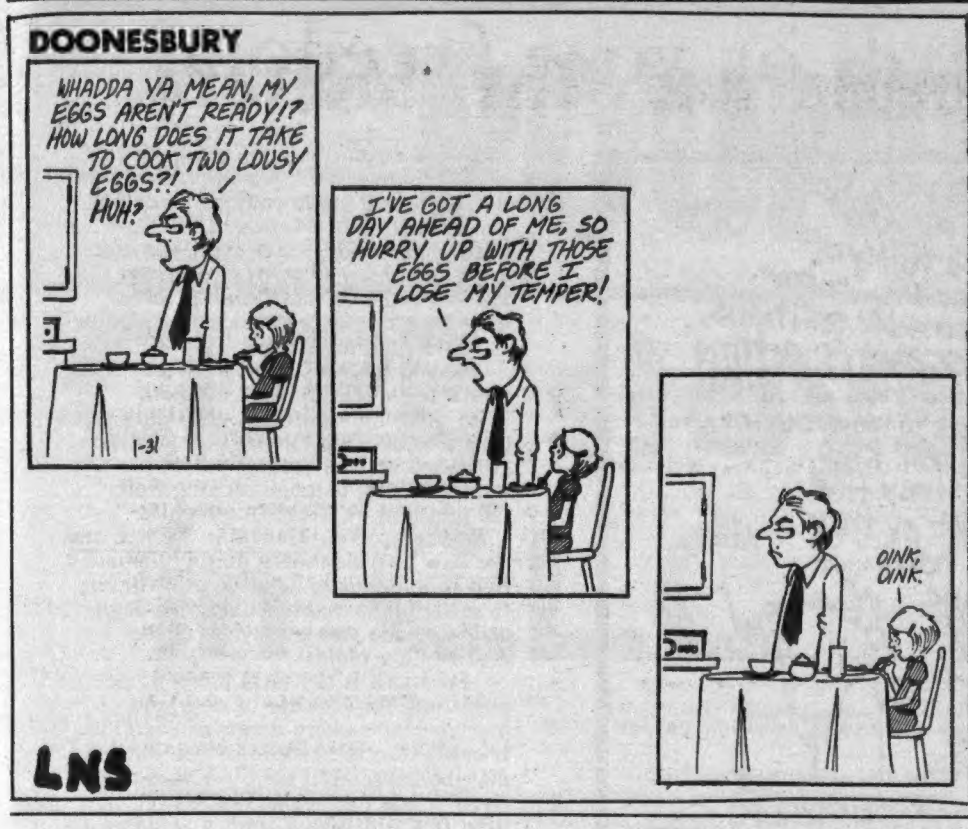

Course to be offered on Quebec society

The sociology department at the University of Alberta will be offering a course on the society of Quebec this coming winter term.

The course will centre on the study of social change as reflected in political parties since 1935. The Parti Quebecois and other separatist elements will be carefully studied. The events of the Quiet Revolution (1959-66) will be observed in depth as will the aftermath of the Quiet Revolution (1966-73).

The instructor will be David Nock, a doctoral candidate in the department. Nock completed a M. A. degree at the Institute of Canadian Studies, Carleton University, Ottawa.

He was a teaching assistant for Marcel Rioux, author of Quebec in Question, while at Carleton. Nock also studied under Hubert Guindon, Frank Scott, Pauline Jewett, John Porter, Frank Vallee, R. J. Joy and other experts on Quebec at Carleton.

Nock spent the summer of 1970 at Laval University, Quebec. He has a number of publications in the field of Quebec studies.

A reading knowledge of French is not required for the course, although useful.

This credit course will be considered as a division of Sociology 322, Canadian Social Issues. Classes will likely be held Monday, Wednesday, Friday, at 12 p. m. Students will be welcome to bring their lunch.

An effort will be made to compare the political economy of the West to that of Quebec.

Further information can be obtained by phoning David Nock, 436-1564, or by stopping in at the sociology offices, Tory-5.

by David Nock

Arts Notes

Pierre Hetu will conduct the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra in a programme composed of works by Francaix, Schumann, and Rachmaninoff.

The concert will be held at the Jubilee Auditorium on Saturday, December 1 at 8:30 p. m. and on Sunday, December 2 at 2:30 p. m.

Soloist will be Shura Cherkassky who was born in Odessa. Cherkassky studied under Josef Hofmann, the pianist to whom Rachmaninoff dedicated the concerto that will be played.

Students can get rush tickets for $1. 00 an hour before concert. Rush tickets for non-students are $2. 00. Phone 433-2020 or 424-0121 for more ticket information. Ordinary tickets cost between $3. 50 and $6. 50.

The Edmonton Art Gallery is presenting a veritable host of special collections this month and in December. Edmonton artist, J. B. Taylor, will have a showing of his landscapes from November 22--December 18. This collection will feature Taylor's paintings from the 1940's until his death in 1970.

From December 2 to January 14, there will be an exhibition of recent ceramic sculpture by Edmonton potter, Jack Forbes. Meet the artist on Sunday, December 2 from 2--4 p. m.

Families are invited to make their own Christmas cards at the gallery on Sunday, December 2 and 9, from 2:30 to 4 p. m. Members of the staff will assist but please bring your own printing materials.

Continuing until November 29 is the series of Roman etchings done in the 1740's by G. B. Piranesi. The etchings are "not accurate, architectural reportage, but dramatically exaggerated and intensified visions of Antique and Baroque Rome."

Exhibition of works from the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts will continue until December 9. Included are works by Matisse, Picasso, and Cezanne. The exhibition includes mainly paintings by French artists from the 1850's to 1940's.

The Montreal Museum holdings are on display since the museum has closed down for a two-year period of renovation and expansion.

The Citadel Theatre will begin a policy of holding two preview nights before regular performances, at reduced rates.

At the preview nights, tickets will cost students and senior citizens $1. 50 and non-students $2. 00.

The previews will be followed by an open discussion period when members of the audience can question the cast and crew.

Artistic director John Neville writes: "We feel the Citadel, as a community organization as well as a professional theatre, has a responsibility to assist in providing an opportunity for Edmontonians--particularly students interested in drama--to gain insight into the intricacies of professional theatrical production."

A preview of I DO! I DO! will be held next November 29 and 30. More info at 424-2828.

Sid Marty--poet, graduate student and park warden--will give a reading of his poetry on Thursday, November 29, 12:15 noon, at the Citadel Theatre.

Marty was a graduate student at the University of Calgary but left to continue work in the federal parks service. He signed on full time as a park warden in 1972 and has lately been transferred to the Lake Minnewanka station in Banff National Park.

Marty has published his book of poetry, Headwaters. He has also been anthologized several times. Al Purdy, another rugged Canadian poet, has praised his work.

Le Theatre Francais d' Edmonton will present its second play of this season, Barillet and Grady's "4 pieces sur jardin."

The work will be staged on November 30 and the 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, of December. Curtain time will be 8:30 p. m.

Tickets are $1. 25 for students and $2. 00 for non-students. Tickets can be purchased at the door or by phoning 467-3626.

"4 pieces sur jardin," written by the authors of Cactus Flower is a bright comedy.

The Governors of the University of Alberta Committee to Study Student Services invites submissions

The Board of Governors has formed a Committee to Study Student Services on campus.

The Committee is to study student services in the widest sense, and report back to the Board with recommendations before planning begins for the next budget year.

The members appointed to the Committee are:
Dr. Eric Hanson, Professor of Economics (Chairman);
Mr. Peter Savaryn, a member of the Board of Governors;
Mr. George Mantor, President of the Students' Union, and
Mr. Peter Flynn and Mr. Lloyd Unterschultz, alternating as representatives of the Graduate Students' Association.

The University now provides student services in the area of academic and personal counselling, health, athletics, foreign students advising, freshman orientation, special publications, and student affairs.

The Committee is to study student services on the campus in terms of what is good for the University, and also what the University can afford.

There is no presumption by the Committee that its object is to eliminate existing programs. Some of them may be phased out as a result of the Committee's findings, but new ones may well be added.

The heads of student services on the campus are now being asked by the Committee to submit replies to a list of questions intended to establish the scope of their service.

After these replies have been received, representatives of each service will be asked to meet the Committee, and discuss the questions further.

It is planned also that the Committee will arrange for a questionnaire to be circulated to a sampling of student users of these services so that their experience may be made available to the Committee.

The Co-mittee now invites submissions and comments on student services from all parts of the University community. These services include:

Student Affairs

The offices of the Provost, the Dean of men, and the Dean of Women, the Foreign Student Adviser, and the Committee on Student Affairs.

Student Counselling Services

Student Health Service

Athletic Programs

Intercollegiate, Intramural, and Recreational Athletic programs.

Student Awards

University Ombudsman

Submissions and comments in writing should be sent to John Nicol, Secretary to the Governors, 3-3 University Hall, as soon as possible.

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Women and the Law

Marraige: your safeguards or your freedom?

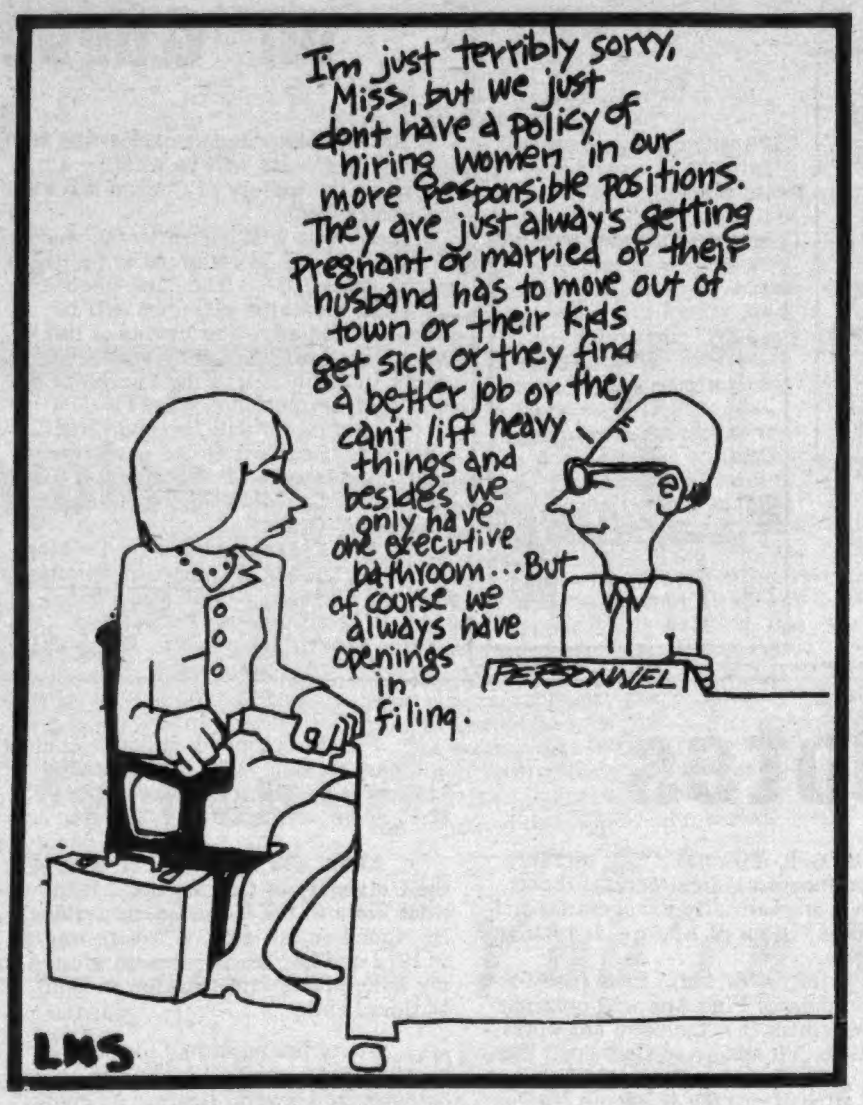
This article is the first of three to be written by Laurel Loiselle on Canadian Women and the Law. The second article will concern divorce, desertion and separation, while the third will deal with abortion.

Until the 19th century married women had no legal rights whatsoever. During that time, "women were classified in the same category as lunatics and children, and the wedding ceremony was purely the transfer of a warm chattel, namely one female, from one male, her father, to the next, her husband." (Callwood, 1971 Canadian Women and the Law) Things have changed since then -- married women in Canada now have several rights not given to women in common-law relationships.

Marriage laws in Canada are under provincial jurisdiction. In Alberta, there is a Married Women's Act. Before this act came into being, a woman was considered to be so closely identified with her husband, and so much under his influence, that she could not be considered responsible for any wrongs committed by her. Even though she was allowed to own property in her own name, her husband controlled the disposing of that property. Generally, women who remained single were allowed similar rights as males, but once married, the woman's rights were assumed by the husband.

Under the act mentioned above, Alberta women today can acquire and sell any property, be made liable with respect to contracts and debts, and are subject to the laws of bankruptcy. A wife who is living with her husband can pledge his credit, but only as long as she has his authority to do so. The husband may prevent her use of credit by showing that she has a substantial allowance of her own, or merely by telling tradespeople that he doesn't want credit to be used by her. If the wife has left her husband for "no good cause" she no longer possesses the right to use her husband's credit. However, if she has been deserted, or has left her husband for some good reason, (e. g. cruelty) she may become an "agent of necessity" (which allows her the use of her husband's credit and cannot be forbidden by him).

If the husband finds that he has to move somewhere else because of his job, his wife is obligated to either accompany him, or else lose any share in the property, as well as the right to be supported. There is a complete turnabout when the wife has a job in a distant place. Unless her husband is unemployed, she may not take the job until her husband either agrees, or makes the move with her. (Otherwise, she is regarded as having deserted)



Marriage gives Canadian women a distinct advantage over men in the area of ownership. Under law, wives are allowed to keep all of their earnings and have no obligation to contribute to the support of children. (Men, on the other hand, are legally obligated to support both the wife and any children from the marriage)

By the mere fact of a marriage license, women are entitled to "dower rights" This means, that upon marriage, women are customatically guaranteed to become a one-third owner of the husband's property (regardless of whether or not her name appears on the deed). A slight contradiction in the law appears at this point: if the husband wishes to sell the property, he must first either have his wife's consent or else pay her 1/3 of the price. However, she is not allowed to refuse to be bought out.

Contrasted to marriage, in Alberta common-law relationships have no legal sanctions. At the present time, there are none of the legal safeguards that occur under marriage. However, in a very few cases of extreme need, Alberta judges have allowed common-law wives a housekeeper"s wage for the period of the relationship, after the man had died intestate.

All of the preceding marriage rights occur at a price (and a large one at that) -- the availability and sexual fidelity of the wife. If she commits adultery even once, or leaves her husband without sufficient cause, the wife stands to lose all rights given her by marriage. Apparently, Alberta law doesn't take a sentimental view of marriage -- it's a straight swap of goods and services, and the service the wife gives in exchange for her support is almost exclusively sexual. Hence, if for some reason the woman's sexual ability is impaired, her husband can sue the cause of impairment for "consortium". Although under law, this term applies to the loss of tenderness and affection, in actuality it refers to the loss of sex. Too, a husband may sue any man who seduces his wife and who has therefore deprived him of his wife's sexual exclusivity. A bit shocking when you find that a wife can sue for neither of the above reasons.

Concerning children, as long as the woman is married at the time of her child's birth, the child is considered legitimate. Her husband, even though he may not be the real father of the child, is considered the legal father. If a child is born illegitimately, its mother has first rights in custody. Regardless of the mother's age, no one can take away her baby unless gross neglect is proven. The father of an illegitimate child may be held responsible for the maintenance and care of the child's mother for 3 months prior to birth, and until such time after birth as is necessary. He may also be required to contribute to the child's maintenance and education until the child reaches the age of 16. A complaint against the alleged father may be made by the mother up to 24 months after the birth of the child. However, the mother's testimony in court concerning the alleged father is insufficient; there must be more factual evidence in order to prove paternity.

Canadian law is generally unsympathetic towards unmarried mothers. "The Supreme Court of Canada has twice (in 1931 and 1967) made rulings on the grounds that "the natural parent has no right to claim damages arising from the death of an illegitimate child." (Callwood, 1971, Canadian Women and the Law). This means that an unmarried mother would have great difficulty in suing for something like gross negligence on the part of anyone in the death of her child.

Free will is the vital factor in determining the legality of marriage -- any marriage where duress or coercion is applied to the couple to get married, may be considered void. A void marriage is one that under law, never existed (quite different from a voidable marriage, which is one that hasn't been consumated). A marriage cannot be considered void if one party misjudged the other's true nature, or if the bride was pregnant by another man at the time of the ceremony. This latter example seems to imply that the protection of both the future mother and her child is necessary at all costs.

It's obvious that marriage allows women many legal advantages. A wife is entitled to the right to be supported, dower rights, the right to maintenance payments upon divorce, the right to inherit, and the right to claim child support.

These same advantages are missing in common-law relationships; however, the advantages of common-law become the drawbacks of marriage. In order for a wife to prevent the risk of losing her rights, she must remain physically faithful to her husband at all times. There are also differential advantages for both husbands and wives in marriage; the wife retains all the legal safeguards concerning property, etc., while the husband under law has the advantage in the sexual arena.

NDP Women's Caucus to focus on action

If you are a woman who is sick and tired of the lack of real power that females have in our society, you may be interested in attending the Alberta NDP Women's Conference. You'll meet lots of women with many ideas on how women can organize politically and unite their voices to have some real say in what decisions are being made in this country.

The idea of the Alberta Conference grew out of a highly successful Women's Caucus at the National Convention of the NDP held in Vancouver. The National Convention passed a resolution calling for a National Conference of NDP Women. The organizers of the Alberta Women's Conference see it as, in part, a building block toward such a national gathering.

The agenda of the Alberta Conference will include:

1. a panel discussion on Why Electoral Action? - Why the NDP?
2. a session dealing with the structure of the NDP and how to run an election campaign
3. a discussion of strategies women can employ during elections
4. a discussion of policies which could be submitted to the next provincial convention

"Personally I hope to see the Conference focus on political action defined in a broader sense than merely as electoral action," says Carlla Kennedy, a member of the Steering Committee which is organizing the Conference.

"I hope that, at the Conference, we will build a strong NDP women's caucus capable of organizing campaigns of mass public action, capable of co-operating with existing feminist groupings outside of the NDP, and capable of using the resources of the NDP to further the struggle for women's liberation on all fronts.

She added that she hoped the women at the Conference would apply to be officially recognized as a caucus by the Alberta NDP, so that they can present resolutions and elect delegates to the provincial NDP Convention.

"That's the only way we can expect to have any real power within the Party," she said.

The Conference will take place in the lower hall of Holy Trinity Church, beginning at 9 a. m., Dec. 1.

Women who are not Party members are also welcome to attend. Billeting will be available for out-of-town women who plan to attend. Child care and a car pool within Edmonton will also be provided. An eight dollar donation to help cover expenses is requested.

For further information call the Alberta NDP Association 429-0797 or Lila Fahlman 439-1745.

Womens' notes

Wednesday, November 28 - June Menzies, Vice-chairperson of the Federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women, will be speaking at 7:30 p. m. in the downstairs theatre of the Centennial Library. Discussions will follow Ms. Menzies talk.

The forum is sponsored by the Edmonton Options for Women Council. Displays of feminist literature will be set up in the theatre foyer.

For further information contact Anne Lambert at 432-3832 or 433-3490.

Thursday, November 29 - At 12:00 noon in the Music Room of the Centennial Library theatre, the U of A Department of Extension presents its final class in a series of lectures in women's studies. Members of various women's groups will outline the activities and interests of their specific organizations. Groups such as Options for Women, the Women's Political Caucus, Parents for Day Care, Canadian Women's Coalition, and the Womens Programme Centre will hopefully be represented.

The purpose of the meeting is to encourage women to put into action the ideas they have been discussing in the classes. All women are invited to attend.

Saturday, December 1 - Alberta NDP women are having a conference on women and political action, beginning at 9 a. m. in Holy Trinity Church. All women are invited.

For further information call the Alberta NDP at 429-0797 or Lila Fahlman at 439-1745.